

Fauquier County FY 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

Budget-in Brief

Budget Overview

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Proposed Budget continues the County's biennial budget presentation including budgets for both FY 2019 and FY 2020. The Board of Supervisors may, legally, only adopt a final budget and tax rates for FY 2019 and Tax Year 2018. The draft FY 2020 budget and tax rates for 2019 may only be finally adopted next year through the same statutorily mandated process for adopting budgets and tax rates.

The proposed budgets for both FY 2019 and FY 2020 focus on addressing staffing needs to ensure continuity of current operations as well as compensation needs of current County staff and departments. The level of non-personnel related cost increases is limited to those costs related to contractual or mandated cost increases, with a minimal amount of expenditures increased outside of these parameters. The FY 2019 proposed budget includes key enhancements for fire and rescue services, to include the establishment of 15.0 FTE Fire and Rescue Technicians based on the acceptance of the SAFER grant approved in mid-FY 2018; the establishment of 13.0 FTE Fire and Rescue Technicians to allow for a 24/7 three-person engine crew at New Baltimore volunteer station and three-person staffing 24/7 at the Orlean volunteer station; and the reclassification of 6 technicians to lieutenants and 3 lieutenants to captains to provide station officers.

Revenue

The FY 2019 Proposed Budget totals \$335.86 million and recommends an overall real estate tax rate of \$0.987 per \$100 of assessed value. The proposed \$0.987 overall real estate tax rate reduces the present \$1.039 overall rate by \$0.052 (five and two-tenths cents) based on the effects of the 2018 reassessment and adjustments for additional fire and rescue funding. The County's reassessment process is completed on a four-year basis, with the change in assessed value of real property on that cycle, exclusive of additions or improvements assessed annually. The proposed overall real estate tax rate includes \$0.86 for the general rate, a reduction of \$0.115 (eleven and one-half cents) primarily due to reassessment, and the shift of approximately \$0.06 (six cents) from the general rate to the fire and rescue levy to present all costs related to fire and rescue services within the levy. The overall real estate tax rate also includes \$0.121 (twelve and one-tenth cents) for the fire and rescue levy and \$0.006 (six-tenth of a cent) for the conservation easement service district levy.

Expenditures

The FY 2019 Proposed Budget totals \$335.86 million, with General Fund expenditures of \$184.97 million, an overall increase of \$24.96 million primarily due to increases in fire and rescue services, the school division funding, and capital project budgets. Overall local tax funding increased by \$11.7 million or 6.9% which is generated primarily by the increased assessed values as a result of the General Reassessment. The FY 2019 proposed General Fund budget also includes a \$572,000 use of fund balance, an approximately \$520,000 decrease over the FY 2018 adopted budget in line with the Board of Supervisors' and County Administration's directive to begin to eliminate this use of funds from the annual budget. The proposed FY 2019 budget includes an increase of \$3.0 million in direct local transfer to the School Division Operating Fund, for a net increase of \$2.5 million, as the FY 2018 Adopted Budget base was reduced by \$550,000 to memorialize the ongoing requirement for Children's Services Act local match for day placements that had been supported with year-end funds. This amount is less than the requested \$6.03 million increase in the direct local transfer, but similar to the level of increase allocated in the FY 2019 Proposed Budget for public safety staffing enhancements while maintaining the level of local funding directly supporting operations in the School Division Operating Fund.

The FY 2020 Proposed Budget, which serves as a draft plan, totals \$357.3 million with General Fund expenditures totaling \$188.55 million, overall increase of \$22.2 million primarily due to increases in capital projects, school division funding, and fire and rescue services. Overall local tax funding would increase by \$5.15 million or 2.8%. The FY 2020 proposed General Fund budget includes an increase of \$3.6 million or 2.0%, primarily funding an increase to the School Division of \$2.1 million, which equates to approximately 58% of the General Fund increase in FY 2020. The balance of local tax funding proposed in FY 2020 would be allocated to fire and rescue services and a proposed increase of approximately \$200,000 to the Conservation Easement Services District levy to align with the Strategic Plan goal of maintaining the County's current rate of land placed in conservation easement.

Capital Improvement Program

The proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) totals \$72.2 million from FY 2019 through FY 2023, with an additional \$212.3 million designated for future fiscal years. Over the five-year planning period (FY 2019-FY 2023), \$5.3 million would be allocated for public safety and fire and rescue projects, \$2.7 million for parks and recreational projects, \$7.6 million for environmental services projects, \$22.1 million for utility and infrastructure projects including \$16.0 million for broadband development, \$0.2 million for Airport projects, and \$34.3 million for school division projects. The proposed CIP contains a significant cash funding commitment totaling \$17.1 million, with \$8.64 million anticipated from General Fund contribution and \$8.43 million from non-General Fund sources, including donations and agency specific funds.

Tax Rate Comparison

		Tax Year 2017 Adopted Rate	Tax Year 2018 Proposed Rate ¹	Change
Real Estate	General	\$0.975	\$0.860	(\$0.115)
	Fire & Rescue	\$0.058	\$0.121	\$0.063
	Conservation Easement Service District	\$0.006	\$0.006	\$0.00
Personal Property	Personal	\$4.65	\$4.65	\$0.00
	Business	\$2.30	\$2.30	\$0.00
Stormwater Management Fee ²		\$13.64	\$13.64	\$0.00

¹The County Administrator will advertise an overall real estate tax rate for Tax Year 2018 of \$1.001 to allow the Board of Supervisors the utmost flexibility when considering the proposed budget.

²The Stormwater Management Fee is a County-wide special assessment, on a per parcel basis.

Tax Bill Comparison

	Tax Year 2017	Tax Year 2018 (at lowered/equivalent rate)	% Change	Tax Year 2018 (at proposed rate)	% Change (from Tax Year 2017)	Annualized Change (from Tax Year 2006)
Taxable Value	\$321,300	\$378,000	17.6%	\$378,000	17.6%	2.57%
Total Tax Bill	\$3,352	\$3,567	6.41%	\$3,745	11.71%	

FY 2019-2020 Budget Calendar

Real Property Tax Increase Public Hearing

Date	Time	Location
March 15	7:00 p.m.	Fauquier High School Auditorium 705 Waterloo Road Warrenton, VA

Budget Public Hearing

Date	Time	Location
March 15	7:10 p.m. (approximate time)	Fauquier High School Auditorium 705 Waterloo Road Warrenton, VA

Budget Work Sessions

Date	Time	Location
March 2	10:00 a.m.	Warren Green Building 10 Hotel Street Warrenton, VA
March 6	2:00 p.m.	Warren Green Building 10 Hotel Street Warrenton, VA
March 13	2:00 p.m.	Warren Green Building 10 Hotel Street Warrenton, VA
March 15 (with School Board)	5:00 p.m.	Fauquier High School Library 705 Waterloo Road Warrenton, VA
March 19	2:00 p.m.	Warren Green Building 10 Hotel Street Warrenton, VA
March 22	4:00 p.m.	Warren Green Building 10 Hotel Street Warrenton, VA

Please note that dates are subject to change. Please see <http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/living/county-calendar> for updates.

For More Information

The Board of Supervisors will conduct its evaluation of the Proposed Budget in March, with budget adoption scheduled for March 22, 2018. Members of the public are invited to speak at the Board of Supervisors' public hearing or submit their comments by e-mail to: bos@fauquiercounty.gov. The FY 2019-2020 Proposed Budget is also available in the following locations:

- Fauquier County Office of Management & Budget website
- All Fauquier County Libraries
- County Administrator's Office

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